

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A system for printing and treating a recording element comprising:  
a printhead for dispensing a liquid comprising a carrier onto a recording element;  
a carrier removal station positioned downstream from the printhead, the carrier removal station being adapted to remove a predetermined percentage of carrier present in the recording element; and  
a converting station positioned downstream from the carrier removal station, wherein the converting station is adapted to increase a durability characteristic of the recording element;  
wherein the printhead is located in a first unit, and the carrier removal station and the converting station are located in a second unit, the first unit being distinct from the second unit.

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) A system for printing and treating a recording element comprising:  
a printhead for dispensing a liquid comprising a carrier onto a recording element;

a carrier removal station positioned downstream from the printhead, the carrier removal station being adapted to remove a predetermined percentage of carrier present in the recording element; and

a converting station positioned downstream from the carrier removal station, wherein the converting station is adapted to increase a durability characteristic of the recording element;

~~The system according to Claim 1, portions of the system defining a recording element travel path, wherein a second portion of the travel path overlaps a first portion of the travel path~~ wherein the converting station provides support for the recording element to transition from one portion of a travel path for the recording element to another portion of the travel path which overlaps the one portion of the travel path.

8. (currently amended) The system according to Claim 7, ~~portions of the system defining a third portion of the travel path, wherein the third portion of the travel path overlaps at least one of the second portion and the first portion wherein the printhead, the carrier removal station, and the converting station are located on the one portion of the travel path.~~

9. (currently amended) The system according to Claim 4 ~~7~~, ~~portions of the system defining a recording element travel path comprising a first portion and a second portion, the first portion of the travel path having a first direction of travel and the second portion of the travel path having a second direction of travel, wherein the first direction of travel is opposite to the second direction of travel~~ wherein the converting station includes a roller that provides the support for the recording element to transition from the one portion of the travel path to the other portion of the travel path which overlaps the one portion of the travel path.

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) The system according to Claim 14, wherein the first unit is positionable over the second unit.

13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) The system according to Claim 14, further comprising:

a media handling mechanism positioned between the first unit and the second unit, the media handling mechanism being operable to transfer recording element from the first unit to the second unit.

15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) A recording element printing and treating method comprising:

printing a liquid comprising a carrier onto a recording element;  
removing a predetermined percentage of carrier present in the recording element; and

increasing a durability characteristic of the recording element, wherein the step of removing the predetermined percentage of carrier is distinct relative to the step of increasing the durability characteristic of the recording element;

wherein the printhead is located in a first unit, and the carrier removal station and the converting station are located in a second unit, the first unit being distinct from the second unit.

18. (currently amended) A recording element printing and treating method comprising:

printing a liquid comprising a carrier onto a recording element;  
removing a predetermined percentage of carrier present in the recording element at a carrier removal station; and

increasing a durability characteristic of the recording element at a converting station.

~~The method according to Claim 17, wherein the printing, carrier removing, and durability characteristic increasing operations are performed along a continuous recording element travel path~~ wherein the converting station provides support for the recording element to transition from one portion of a travel path for the recording element to another portion of the travel path which overlaps the one portion of the travel path.

19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)

21. (cancelled)

22. (cancelled)

23. (cancelled)

24. (original) The method according to Claim 17, wherein increasing the durability characteristic of the recording element includes applying pressure to the recording element.

25. (cancelled)